6th September 1928] [The President]

" As the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, an election will take place by means of the single transferable vote.

" Under Regulation II (5) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I appoint 1-30 p.m. to 5 p.m. today as the time for the holding of the election. Voting papers containing the names of the candidates can be had from the Secretary from 1-30 p.m. The counting of votes will commence at 5 p.m. to-day."

III

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT AND THE MADRAS GENERAL CLAUSES ACT.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that I nominate Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar as the Chairman of the Select Committee appointed yesterday to consider the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras General Clauses Act."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, may I ask you one question with regard to a certain matter which happened here? Day before yesterday, Mr. President, you allowed the House to continue the sitting after 5 p.m. Probably you came to that decision because the Government represented to you that, if the business was not finished that day, it could not be finished as there would be no further sitting of the Council on Saturday. May I therefore take it that your ruling to continue the sitting that day after 5 p.m. was due to that particular information ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Not at all."

IV

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF RYOTS IN FOREST AREAS.[a]

* Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, yesterday I was submitting to the House the grievances the people were suffering under the existing forest administration. I want to add something more to the list of those grievances. First of all, I would take the forest fires. No doubt there has been difference of opinion with regard to the utility of forest fires. I do not want to enter into that debatable question. I would only submit for the consideration of this House that there is a general impression in the country that the early burning that is now advocated by the department is taken advantage of by some dishonest officials of the subordinate staff in the department because the work they are entrusted with will have to be completed by the end of the official year, i.e., 31st March. Early burning, fortunately for them and unfortunately for the people synchronises with that period. As soon as the early burning commences it is possible for them to

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[a] Mr. K. R. KARANT :—
That this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a committee of the members of this Council to enquire and investigate into the alleged grievances and hardships of the ryots in the forest areas of the province in regard to the administration of the Forest department and also into the allaged abuse of privileges by the ryots and suggest remedies to redress grievances and stop abuses and also to suggest any change that may be necessary in the forest policy of the Government.